

Mason Valley Conservation District

Annual Report

July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008

DIVISION OF 

SEP 23 2008

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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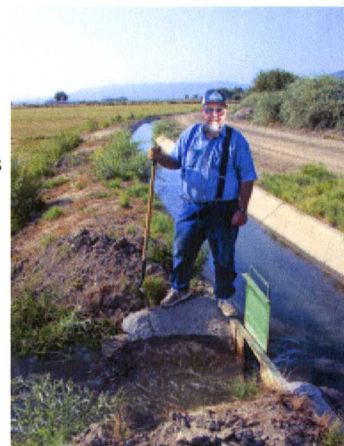
Michelle Langsdorf

MVCD says goodbye to a great leader...

In May of 2008, David Fulstone II resigned from the Mason Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors. David has served intermediately since the 1980s with continuous service commencing in January 1996. He is an invaluable source of knowledge, ideas and insight. His efforts were critical both during and immediately following the devastating 1997 flood. David continues to be an advocate for the Conservation District and the agricultural producers of Mason Valley.

We would like to sincerely thank David for his many years guiding District activities, dedication to conservation, critical involvement with Walker River concerns and natural resource management within Mason Valley.

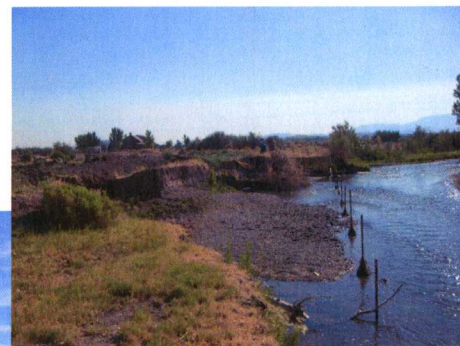
Everyone will miss him. Thank you!



"I enjoyed serving and wish everyone well." – David Fulstone II

MVCD partners with Smith Valley CD to monitor river conditions

Mason and Smith Valley Conservation Districts are pooling State of Nevada AB-629 funds to complete a three year monitoring project of 12 previously constructed riverbank stabilization projects. The project will allow MVCD and SVCD to determine if these project sites require any maintenance as well as provide the opportunity to determine effectiveness of certain techniques in the Walker River basin. We expect to establish a repeatable method of monitoring projects to be used on future projects as well as produce an electronic presentation of District activities to be shared with District constituents, State Conservation Commission and funding sources.



*Top: project before construction
Bottom: after construction (reshaped and revegetated banks and installed rock structures)*

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Nonpoint Source Pollution Educational Outreach Campaign

The City of Yerington received a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grant to complete a stormwater management plan and asked MVCD to assist with the educational components of the grant. As a result, MVCD submits quarterly newspaper articles to the Mason Valley News regarding nonpoint source pollution. The first article was entitled "What is non-point source pollution?" which explained the differences between point and nonpoint sources (NPS) and the development of the Clean Water Act. The second article entitled "10 ways to reduce NPS" explained simple changes city residents could do to reduce NPS as well as save money. We also began developing an educational outreach booth for the August 2008 Lyon County Fair which will demonstrate the Enviroscope Nonpoint Source Pollution Watershed model, have the Environmental Protection Agency film "After the Storm" play in the background and provide informational brochures, activity books for children, and other related items.



Mason Valley Workday, Yerington Students learn about water quality by testing various parameters



Workday in Mason Valley. From left to right: Yerington High School students, the wonderful Soroptimist ladies, Linda Conlin (Nevada River Wranglers) and Dan Kaffer (WNRC&D)

"Walker River Basin Workdays"

The inaugural "Walker River Basin Workdays" were held fall 2007 at six different locations: Bridgeport, CA; Topaz, CA; Smith, NV; Yerington, NV; Schurz, NV and Hawthorne, NV. Elementary, middle and high school students visited the river to learn about water quality, riparian vegetation and native wildlife. In addition, they put the work in "workdays" by planting native vegetation (willows and a riparian seed mixture) as well as removed noxious weeds. We really appreciated the Yerington Soroptimist chapter for providing lunch and snacks during the Yerington event. What a great bunch of ladies!

Division of Water Resources Grant

Nevada Division of Water Resources awarded MVCD \$41,785.00 grant to complete three riverbank stabilization projects in Mason and Smith Valleys with construction beginning November 2007 and completed February 2008. We utilized various bioengineering techniques including live stakes, juniper revetments, willow bundles and vegetated barbs as well as a rock "j-hook," rock barb and refusal trenches. We will continue to monitor these projects for maintenance needs.

Top: River project before construction. Notice sloughing banks
Bottom: Same project after construction. Banks were reshaped and revegetated.



Walker River Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area

MVCD continues to co-chair the Walker River Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with Smith Valley Conservation District. The CWMA meets throughout the year to collaborate on noxious weed projects. For three years, the CWMA has chemically treated a 120 acre area in Smith Valley infested with perennial pepperweed and our efforts are starting to become noticeable. This year we saw dramatic reductions in the amount of weeds growing in the area. Fall 2008 we plan to begin revegetating the area.



Russian knapweed infestation in Smith Valley.



Knapweed biocontrol release in Schurz, NV.

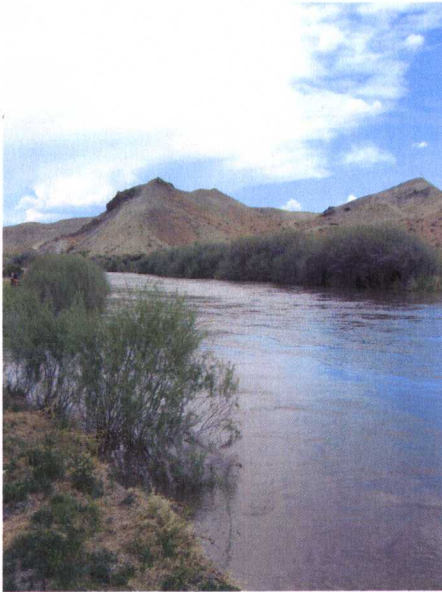
Walker River Restoration Steering Committee

MVCD continued to participate on the Walker River Restoration Steering Committee (WRRSC) which was formed after the authorization of the H.R. 2419 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act (Public Law 109-103), to oversee Section 208(c)(1) of the appropriation for "tamarisk eradication, riparian area restoration and channel restoration efforts within the Walker River Basin that are designed to enhance water delivery to Walker Lake, with priority given to activities that are expected to result in the greatest increased water flows to Walker Lake." MVCD provides technical advice to the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding restoration activities within the basin. We hope to begin selecting river projects during the next fiscal year, once the USFWS consultant completes a basin wide assessment which is scheduled for completion early 2009. Noxious weed orientated projects have already begun, including a comprehensive weed inventory and treatment program for the East Walker River and treatment of tamarisk infested areas on the Walker River Paiute Reservation.

Watershed approach to noxious weed management

US Fish and Wildlife Service, using Desert Terminal Lakes Program funding, awarded Mason and Smith Valley Conservation Districts a cooperative agreement to begin a multi-year/multiphase noxious weed inventory and treatment program using a watershed approach. Both the Service and Districts recognized that in order for a noxious weed management project to be effective, it is important to address these weeds at the headwaters and continue downstream because the river is a major vector for noxious weed spread in the system. The East Walker River (EWR) was selected for the initial phase of this basin wide noxious weed program because relatively few landowners owned the majority of the river. The second and third phases of the project include the West Walker River and the river main stem until it enters Walker River Paiute Tribal lands, respectively. Walker River Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area partners (private landowners, Walker River Weed Control District, Nevada Department of Wildlife, University Nevada Cooperative Extension, US Forest Service and US Bureau of Land Management) provided technical advice, equipment and logistical support to the project. All but one landowner on the East Walker River granted access to the river. The one landowner that did not allow access only held 700 feet of the 70 mile river. MVCD hired seasonal field technicians to map, inventory and begin treatment of the noxious weeds. MVCD coordinated with the Eastern Sierra Cooperative Weed Management Area to address the river corridor in California.





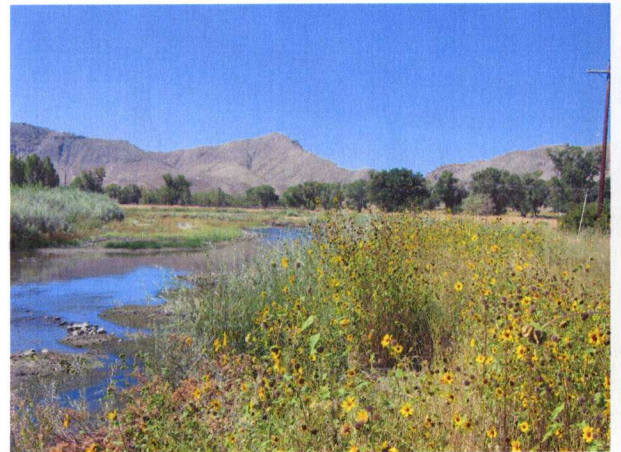
Walker River Environmental Impact Statement

The US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is drafting a Water Acquisitions Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in response to the Desert Terminal Lakes Program (Public Law 109-103) which allows University of Nevada to purchase land, water appurtenant to the land and other related interests from willing sellers in order to restore sufficient inflows to Walker Lake; approximately an additional 50,000 acre-feet per year above historical average flows.

BOR invited MVCD to participate in the EIS process as a cooperating agency based on our knowledge of river restoration projects, agronomic conservation practices, soil conservation practices and irrigation systems. MVCD provided comments throughout the year regarding development of alternatives, concerns with assumptions used to draft the EIS and other

Other activities

Throughout the year, the District continues to participate in meetings with Walker River Irrigation District, Nevada Weed Action Committee, Walker River Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area, Walker River Restoration Steering Committee, Geographic Priority Area meetings on the Walker River, and other natural resource or conservation topics of interest to the MVCD. We also fulfill our reporting duties to our grantors, the State of Nevada, and the Conservation Commission. We play an active role in community-based projects. We hope to get several of our projects on the ground during the next few months and throughout the coming year. MVCD continues to develop and implement programs to protect and conserve our natural resources.



Exciting District News...

MVCD received exciting news from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in June 2008. NACD will feature Mason and Smith Valley Conservation Districts in their fall 2008 national report focusing on Districts leading watershed scale projects involving a multitude of partners. In our case, they are addressing the East Walker River Noxious Weed Project.

The Annual Report and Financial Report for July 1, 2007 — June 30, 2008 were approved at the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting September 17, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Rye".

Stephen Rye, Acting — Chairperson

A handwritten date in black ink that reads "9-17-2008".

Date